

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1846

SPONSOR: Transportation Committee and Senator Wilson

SUBJECT: Highway designations

DATE: March 17, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Eichin</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This CS designates numerous roads in Miami-Dade County. State Road 922 on N.W. 125th Street, from N.W. 7th Avenue to Griffing Boulevard, is designated as "Jean-Jacques Dessalines Boulevard." State Road 915 on N.E. 6th, from the north boundary of State House District 108 to U.S. 1, is designated as "Frederick Douglass Boulevard." State Road 909 on West Dixie Highway, from the north boundary of State House District 108 to N.E. 2nd Avenue, is designated as "Alexandre Petion Boulevard." State Road 5 on Biscayne Boulevard (U.S. 1), from the north boundary of State House District 108 to the south boundary of the District, is designated as "George Gill Boulevard." State Road 932 on N.W. 103rd, from the west boundary of State House District 108 to N.E. 6th Avenue, is designated as "James Weldon Johnson Boulevard." That portion of Honey Hill Drive, from N.W. 27th Avenue to N.W. 47th Avenue is designated as "Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Boulevard." That portion of N.W. 42nd, from N.W. 119th Street to N.W. 135th Street is designated as "Sidney Alterman Way." This CS designates the Skypass Bridge (bridge # 930470) in the City of Riviera Beach in Palm Beach County as the "L.E. Buie Memorial Bridge." That portion of N.W. 27th Avenue from N.W. 119th Street to N.W. 135th Street is designated as "T. Stewart Greer Avenue." The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is directed to erect suitable markers.

II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides: (1) For legislative designations of transportation facilities for honorary or memorial purposes, or to distinguish a particular facility, and may not be construed to require any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes; (2) When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, FDOT is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each

highway segment or bridge designated by the law creating the designation, and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility; and (3) The FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, resolutions supporting the designations must be passed by each affected local government prior to the erection of the markers.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 - State Road 922 on N.W. 125th Street, from N.W. 7th Avenue to Griffing Boulevard, is designated as "Jean-Jacques Dessalines Boulevard."

Born at the Cormiers Plantation north of Haiti in 1758, Dessalines was a slave on the plantation of Duclos who ran away to freedom at the age of 33. He was the principal lieutenant of Toussaint Louverture and became the General-in-Chief of the Revolution of St-Domingue after the deportation of Toussaint Louverture. He was a gifted soldier and distinguished himself during several combats, especially at the Battle of Crete-à-Pierrot. There he launched a call to his soldiers and boosted their courage by leading them to blow up the fortress rather than give it up to the French. He led the indigenous army into victory over the French army of Napoleon Bonaparte in the Battle of Vertières on November 18, 1803. On January 1, 1804, he proclaimed the independence of the colony, which he renamed Haiti. The same day he was acclaimed Governor-General-for-Life of Haiti, and on September 2, 1804 he was crowned Emperor under the name of Jacques I. Dessalines was assassinated in a revolt on October 17, 1806 at Pont-Rouge. He is remembered as the Father of the Haitian Nation and the Founder of the Independence of Haiti.

Section 2 - State Road 915 on N.E. 6th, from the north boundary of State House District 108 to U.S. 1, is designated as "Frederick Douglass Boulevard."

Frederick Douglass was one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery within the United States in the decades prior to the Civil War. A brilliant speaker, Douglass was asked by the American Anti-Slavery Society to engage in a tour of lectures, and so became recognized as one of America's first great black speakers. He won world fame when his autobiography was publicized in 1845. Two years later he began publishing an antislavery paper called the North Star. Douglass served as an adviser to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and fought for the adoption of constitutional amendments that guaranteed voting rights and other civil liberties for blacks. Douglass provided a powerful voice for human rights during this period of American history and is still revered today for his contributions against racial injustice.

Section 3 – State Road 909 on West Dixie Highway, from the north boundary of State House District 108 to N.E. 2nd Avenue, is designated as "Alexandre Petion Boulevard."

During the later years of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th, many brave men battle for the independence of the Republic of Haiti. Among, them was Alexandre Petion, a young man of great vision. Petion is known as the founder of the republic of Haiti, but with his help, many Latin American countries were also liberated. In the twelve years that he ruled, Alexandre Petion

endured many hardships, but created the foundation for the country. Mr. Petion was born in Port-au-Prince in 1770 to a French father and a Black mother. He was known at that time as a mulatto. At the age of 18, he was sent to study and became a soldier in France at the Military Academie de Paris. Along with Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Mr. Petion organized the mulattos with the African slave in order to fight the French army for the independence of Haiti. After an ambush and the death of Dessalines, Petion was elected President of the Republic of Haiti on March 09, 1806. During his reign as president, he was responsible for the design of the official flag of the Haiti. He designed the coat of arms within the white square. Less than a decade later after its independence, Haiti began to help its neighbors in South America to gain liberty as well. Simon Bolivar, the Liberator, came to Haiti to seek help for his struggle to liberate his country Venezuela from Spain. Petion gave Bolivar money, weapons, ammunitions and even Haitian volunteer soldiers to help him fight for freedom. The only thing Petion asked in return was abolition of slavery in all the territories that he may later help liberate. Simon Bolivar with the help of Haiti proclaimed Venezuela's independence in 1812 and truly liberated Colombia in 1819, Venezuela in 1821, Ecuador and Peru in 1822. Alexandre Petion died on March 29, 1818.

Section 4 – State Road 5 on Biscayne Boulevard (U.S. 1), from the north boundary of State House District 108 to the south boundary of the District, is designated as "George Gill Boulevard."

George Gill (1914 – 1992) was a pioneer of the South Florida film and television industry. He first came to Miami in 1927, attracted by the clubs, theatres, and vaudeville and motion picture production. After his education, military service in World War II, and a stint on Broadway, he founded George Gill Productions in 1954 becoming the design consultant for most of the showrooms and convention facilities of the major Miami Beach hotels. Later, he orchestrated many of the lighting projects for the 1964 New York Worlds Fair, as well as, numerous television stations and the New York Metropolitan Opera House. In 1967, Mr. Gill established Stage Equipment and Lighting, Inc. with offices in Miami and Orlando. Mr. Gill was one of the first to envision Florida as leader in motion picture production and he worked tirelessly to help Florida achieve that goal.

Section 5 – State Road 932 on N.W. 103rd, from the west boundary of State House District 108 to N.E. 6th Avenue, is designated as "James Weldon Johnson Boulevard."

James Weldon Johnson was born in 1871 in Jacksonville, Florida. He was encouraged to study English literature and the European musical tradition. He attended Atlanta University with the intention that the education he received there would be used to further the interests of the black people. After graduation, he took a job as a high school principal in Jacksonville. In 1900, he wrote the song "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" on the occasion of Lincoln's birthday; the song which became immensely popular in the black community and became known as the "Negro National Anthem." Johnson moved to New York in 1901 to collaborate with his brother Rosamond, a composer, and attained some success as a songwriter for Broadway, but decided to take a job as U.S. Consul to Venezuela in 1906. While employed by the diplomatic corps, Johnson had poems published in the *Century Magazine* and *The Independent*. In 1912, Mr. Johnson published *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* under a pseudonym, the story of a musician who rejects his black roots for a life of material comfort in the white world. The novel explores the issue of racial identity in the twentieth century, a common theme in the writing of the Harlem

Renaissance. He had a talent for persuading people of differing ideological agendas to work together for a common goal, and in 1920 he became the national organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He edited *The Book of American Negro Poetry* (1922), a major contribution to the history of African-American literature. His book of poetry *God's Trombones* (1927) was influenced by his impressions of the rural South, drawn from a trip he took to Georgia while a freshman in college. It was this trip that ignited his interest in the African-American folk tradition. James Weldon Johnson died in 1938.

Section 6 – That portion of Honey Hill Drive, from N.W. 27th Avenue to N.W. 47th Avenue is designated as "Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Boulevard."

Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson was born in Miami, Florida on May 11, 1938. He received his undergraduate degree from Florida A & M University in 1960 and served in the United States Army as a First lieutenant from 1960 to 1963 and as a Captain in the Army Reserve from 1963 to 1965. Thereafter, he received his law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1968. Judge Ferguson began his legal career in 1968 as a Staff Attorney for the Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. From 1972 to 1973, he held the position of Staff Attorney for the Dade County School Board. He was also in private practice with the law firm of McCrary, Ferguson & Lee from 1970 to 1973. In 1973, Ferguson became a Judge of Industrial Claims. Later, from 1976 to 1980, he served on the Circuit Court for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida. Thereafter, Judge Ferguson served on the Third District Court of Appeals for Florida until his appointment to the federal bench in 1993. Judge Ferguson has been a member of numerous professional associations including the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Dade County Bar Association and the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Jury Instructions. Judge Ferguson is the recipient of many awards and honors including the Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship, Legal Services for the Poor, University of Pennsylvania; the Thurgood Marshall Achievement Award for Exceptional Scholarly Performance, Miami Chapter, National Bar Association; and the Outstanding Jurist Award for Advancing Principles of Equity and Fairness.

Section 7 – That portion of N.W. 42nd, from N.W. 119th Street to N.W. 135th Street is designated as "Sidney Alterman Way."

Sidney Alterman was a pioneer in refrigerated trucking. After moving to Miami in 1936, he operated a gas station and he later acquired his first truck in what would become Alterman Transport Lines, Inc., the country's second largest refrigerated trucking company, employing approximately 1,400 employees, with more than 1,000 vehicles and 17 terminals. He was in the trucking business for over 60 years. Alterman Transport Lines, Inc. was headquartered on LeJeune Road in the City of Opa-locka.

Section 8 - The CS designates the Skypass Bridge in the City of Riviera Beach in Palm Beach County as the "L.E. Buie Memorial Bridge." The FDOT is directed to erect suitable markers.

Ms. Louise Elizabeth Baker Buie was born in Dorchester, GA on April 3, 1914 and moved to West Palm Beach where her family relocated in 1925. She was a faithful servant at Roanoke Baptist Church. Ms. Buie joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1932, becoming president of the Palm Beach County Branch in 1954 and holding that

position for 14 years after first holding the position of Assistant Secretary. As a member of the board, she became a force to be reckoned with and an inspiration to everyone as a result of her life work to better the lives of those around her in fighting against discrimination and for integration in her hometown of Riviera Beach and all of Palm Beach County. She is widely regarded as the mother of the civil rights movement in Palm Beach County.

Section 9 – That portion of N.W. 27th Avenue from N.W. 119th Street to N.W. 135th Street is designated as “T. Stewart Greer Avenue.”

T. Stewart Greer began his career with Dade County Schools in 1959, and advanced to become Deputy Assistant Superintendent for Dade County Public Schools, the fourth largest system in the United States. He devoted more than 38 years to improving the school system. During his tenure the late Dr. Greer quietly and steadily worked to become the highest-ranking African American in the school system. His responsibilities expanded rapidly and included Teacher, Department Chair, Coordinator of Special Programs, Director of Special Programs, Assistant Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Interim Superintendent of Schools, the highest seat attainable. He spent his career emphasizing the importance of raising academic achievement and standards in the school district. Dr. T.S. Greer, born in Miami and raised in Overtown, graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College, master's degree from Atlanta University and doctorate degree from The Union Institute.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The FDOT will incur costs of approximately \$7200 (from the State Transportation Trust Fund) for erecting markers for the designation. This is based on the assumption that 18 markers will be erected at a cost of \$400 per marker. The department will also have to pay the recurring cost of maintaining these signs over time, and for future replacement of the signs as necessary.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
